

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### 1. WILD ELEPHANTS DYING IN ASSAM

Further to my letter of 7th December 1949 on the above subject, more information has now been received. An investigation tour was undertaken by the D.F.O. of the district, accompanied by an Hon. Forest Officer. I give herewith the substance of the latter's report.

During a twelve-day tour a great many wild elephant skeletons were found, and taking these into account as well as the number of tusks and tushes actually produced, it now appears that the number of proved deaths is 74. Taking into consideration the area searched, and the areas left unsearched, as well as the numbers of skeletons found in the different localities, it would seem safe to infer that a similar number of deaths has gone undetected. Therefore the total number of wild elephants which died may be in the neighbourhood of 150.

In addition, the skeletons of 3 bison were found, and it was reported by the Beat Officer that 3 bears (species not mentioned) had also died at the same time. There were reports from villagers, too, that some bison, bear and also sambar had died.

There were reports from villagers in three cases that they actually saw elephants dying, lying prostrate with profuse purging and unable to move. One took a week to die, another less. Flatulence is mentioned, and dung mixed with blood.

I have discussed the foregoing report of the tour of investigation with an experienced veterinary officer, and his opinion is that the disease was probably the intestinal form of anthrax. He was not able to inform me definitely whether elephants are susceptible to rinderpest or not, but from the foregoing symptoms it appears to be anthrax. As far as I know, no examination of the remains of the dead animals has been done by any veterinary officer.

The Conservator of Forests has informed me that catching operations have been stopped in this area, and that steps are being taken to try and prevent further occurrences.

DOYANG T.E.,  
OATING P.O., ASSAM,  
16th April, 1950

E. P. GEE

### 2. ABNORMAL CLAVICLE BONES IN TIGER

*(With a photo)*

I enclose a photograph of a gold-mounted brooch showing the very extraordinary freak of a normal clavicle bone from one shoulder and a